

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W
----- 002863

R 081515Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS PFOR CY GR TU

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS PRESS CONFERENCE: INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, ETC

REF: NICOSIA 586

SUMMARY: ARCHBISHOP ATTACKS TURK AND TURK CYPRIOT LEADERS FOR
CURRENT IMPASSE IN TALKS, BUT LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR RESUMPTION.
(DEPUTY UNSYG GUYER HAS COME AND GONE.) MAKARIOS
EXONERATES GENERAL DENISIS, WHILE STRESSING IRRITATION WITH
NATIONAL GUARD. NAMES EOKA-B FINANCIERS, STRONGLY IMPLIES
GOGREECE FINANCING, DOWNPLAYS SOVIET DEMARCHES AND EX-
PRESSES DOUBT THAT GREECE AND TURKEY HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON
CYPRUS. SAYS HE WILL NOT SERVE ANOTHER TERM.

1. IN APRIL 6 PRESS CONFERENCE ARCHBISHOP RANGED WIDELY.

2. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS: AMID VERY STRONG LANGUAGE (REFTEL)
CRITICIZING TURKISH "DEMAND FOR FEDERATION", ARCHBISHOP
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PRESERVED ROOM FOR MANEUVER. OPERATIVE SENTENCE, STRIPPED

DOWN, CALLED FOR TURK CYPRIOT SIDE TO "ADHERE TO THE ORIGINALLY AGREED BASIS." LATER HE REMARKED THAT TURKISH OBJECTIONS TO UNITARY STATE HAD NOT BEEN RAISED IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS THEMSELVES. HE NOTED UNSYG INTERVENTION "WOULD PROBABLY BE CONSTRUCTIVE." (NOTE: OSORIO SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A FORMULA TO MEET THIS RELATIVELY MILD DEMAND WHEN THE TIME COMES. ON APRIL 7 DENKTASH CONTINUED EFFORT TO MAKE CLEAR GREEK SIDE HAD INTERRUPTED NEGOTIATIONS, POINTED OUT THAT ONLY CLERIDES HAD OBJECTED TO HIS EXPLANATION AT APRIL 3 INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS -- NICOSIA 575, PARA 1. HE DECLARED WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON "BICOMMUNAL INDEPENDENCE", AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL TERMS.) DEPUTY UNSYG GUYER CALLED ON MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH, LEFT FOR ANKARA SUNDAY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. SOVIET DEMARCHES. MAKARIOS DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF EXACT NATURE OF DEMARCHES AND DENIED "OPPOSITION PRESS REPORT" THAT HE HAD INSTIGATED. IN PASSING, HE ALSO SAID HE DID NOT THINK GREECE AND TURKEY HAVE A FORMULA OR AGREEMENT FOR SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. (NOTE: LOCAL RIGHTISTS, PLUS ATHENS AND ANKARA, WOULD BE QUICK TO JUMP ON ARCHBISHOP FOR CALLING IN RUSSIANS IF HE HINTED AT INVOLVEMENT OR PLEASURE IN SOVIET DEMARCHE TO ATHENS.)

4. LOCAL ELECTIONS. MAKARIOS REFERRED A QUESTION AS TO SCHEDULED LOCAL ELECTIONS TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. (NOTE: NOBODY YET IS WILLING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DEFERRAL.)

5. EOKA-B. ARCHBISHOP GAVE DETAILS ON FINANCING VIA GREEK SHIPOWNER POTAMIANOS AND CYPRIOT BUSINESSMAN SOCRATES ELIADES. WHILE DISCLAIMING KNOWLEDGE OF SOURCE OF MONEY, HE CLAIMED IT HAS INCREASED SINCE GRIVAS DEATH, AND HINTED THAT GOGREECE WAS THE SOURCE. HE DOUBTED EOKA-B HAS A NEW LEADER.

6. NATIONAL GUARD. MAKARIOS SPOKE OF COMMANDER DENISIS' GOOD INTENTIONS BUT HE SPOKE OF "UNDESIRABLE OBSTACLES CREATED BY VARIOUS PARTIES AND CERTAIN UNDESIRABLE SITUATIONS UNDERMINING HIS WORK." (NOTE: LOCAL READERS WILL TAKE THIS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO NG CHIEF OF STAFF PAPADAKIS WHO IS INCREASINGLY IDENTIFIED WITH EOKA-B ACTIVITIES.) MAKARIOS NOTED ROLE OF CADET AND RESERVE OFFICERS IN SUPPORT OF EOKA-B, INCLUDING THEFT OF ARMS FROM NATIONAL GUARD CAMPS. PROMISED THAT GOVT WILL SUPERVISE SELECTION AND PROMOTION OF CADET OFFICERS TO BRING THEM UNDER CONTROL OF STATE.

7. THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL FUTURE. MAKARIOS SAID "UNDER

ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS IS MY LAST TERM." (NOTE: WE HAVE TENDED TO DISMISS THESE OCCASIONAL STATEMENTS, BUT THIS IS SECOND TIME HE HAS BEEN SO CATEGORICAL. WE ASSUME THAT, AS A POLITICIAN, HE MAY FIND IT USEFUL EVENTUALLY TO BE "DRAFTED." AT SAME TIME, AND STRICTLY AS FAR OUT SPECULATION, WE NOTE IT IS POSSIBLE HE IS BEGINNING TO FIND THIS PUDDLE RATHER SMALL. THERE ARE FEW GREEK LEADERS WITH DEMOCRATIC IMAGE WHO ARE NOT AGING OR TAINTED. ALTHOUGH HE DENIED IT IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, WE WONDER IF MEMORIES OF VENIZELOS COME TO HIM AND WHETHER HE HOPES TO BE AVAILABLE FOR A LARGER STAGE WHEN AND IF THE GREEK PEOPLE GROW TIRED OF THEIR MILITARY LEADERSHIPS.)

8. PERSONAL AND CHURCH FINANCES. IN AN UNUSUALLY DEFENSIVE STATEMENT, ARCHBISHOP PROCLAIMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO UNDERGO FINANCIAL EXAMINATION, AND JUSTIFIED LOCAL PRACTICE OF NOT INCLUDING IN OFFICIAL PRESS TRANSCRIPTS SOME OF THE STATEMENTS HE MAKES AT PRESS CONFERENCES. (NOTE: WHAT WAS NOT INCLUDED THIS TIME WAS A PARTIAL ADMISSION OF AN "ETHNIKI" CHARGE THAT HE HAD USED CHURCH FUNDS TO BUY A HIDEAWAY IN THE SEYCHELLES. IT APPEARS THE CHARGE WAS TRUE BUT THE AMOUNT EXAGGERATED.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MINORITIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NICOSI00595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740079-0896
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740459/aaaacbih.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NICOSIA 586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAKARIOS PRESS CONFERENCE: INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, ETC
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, CY, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005